

SECRET

31 January 1952

To: Chief, SR
Via: Chief, SR/WE
From: Deputy Chief, SR/WE
Subject: Contact Report on Mikola ABRAMCHIK

1. On 16 January the undersigned and Mr. [] conferred with the President of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (BSSR), who had requested Contacts Branch, [], to arrange a meeting with the undersigned. The conference was held in Russian except for brief passages in French. By previous agreement with [] SR/SSS was not represented at this conference since it was felt that the purpose of ABRAMCHIK's request for a conference was primarily for operational reasons.

Candidate 4
2. ABRAMCHIK's first question was relative to any news of [] who was dispatched last fall. When told that nothing had been heard from him, he stated that he held high hopes for his return this spring.

3. The next portion of the conference was devoted to the discussion of possible establishment of Byelorussian military units.

Candidate 4
a. ABRAMCHIK stated that about 15 Byelorussians in Ottawa, Canada, are "training themselves" for intelligence and paramilitary missions in their homeland under the leadership of Briong (Polish spelling).

Candidate 4
b. ABRAMCHIK asked whether any progress had been made in organizing a Byelorussian military unit. He was told that the matter was still under consideration but that as yet no decision had been reached. While on this subject, ABRAMCHIK mentioned that one young Byelorussian who had recently been drafted into the U. S. Army had succeeded in getting himself placed in a paratroop outfit. The young man hopes that the training he is about to receive will prepare him for service in the Byelorussian unit when it is eventually organized.

Candidate 4
4. ABRAMCHIK submitted a list of Byelorussian newspapers and magazines he would like to receive through our channels since they are not normally available outside the Soviet Union. He wishes to prepare for us interpretations of the articles appearing in these periodicals in order to give us a clearer picture of present-day life in the Byelorussian SSR. He was told that we would see what could be done but not to expect anything definite for about six months.

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5. The main point to which ~~Amisank~~^{Amisank} was building up was the fact that he and his organization need money to carry on their activities. It was quite clearly for this reason that ~~Amisank~~^{Amisank} asked to have a meeting with us. His request was countered with the proposal that he submit to our representatives ~~an estimate of how he intended to use the \$1000 a month which he was asking for.~~ It was realized by the undersigned that action will in all likelihood never be taken on this request because, if the ~~fact is~~^{fact is} to receive a subsidy, the subsidy will come through ~~QIACTIVE~~^{QIACTIVE} channels. ~~Amisank~~^{Amisank} is at this moment negotiating for ~~QIACTIVE~~^{QIACTIVE} support, but if these negotiations fall through, he no doubt wants to cover himself by requesting funds from us.

6. After it became apparent to ~~Amisank~~^{Amisank} that there was no immediate prospect of receiving funds from us, he asked how he was to go about financing the collection of Soviet clothing which he had been asked to undertake. He was informed that this will present no problem since once the clothing has been collected and is ready for delivery, money will be made available to him through our representatives. ~~Amisank~~^{Amisank} The collection of clothing will be handled in the following manner: In every U. S. city where there is a concentration of recent Byelorussian immigrants, one of ~~Amisank~~^{Amisank} trusted followers will be placed in charge of collecting clothing allegedly for an ethnological museum in Paris. As collection is completed the clothing will be forwarded to New York. ~~Amisank~~^{Amisank} will be informed about the forthcoming collection or clearing. Arrangements will be made so that we will get word without delay when the clothing is ready to be turned over.

7. ~~Amisank~~^{Amisank} concluded that he expected to remain in the U. S. another month or until ~~Major~~^{Major} ~~Amisank~~^{Amisank} arrived.

8. It is the undersigned's opinion that ~~Amisank~~^{Amisank} has been completely in the dark re our operational activities in Germany since he arrived in the U. S. No field operational activities were discussed. He political statements were injected into the discussions although ~~Amisank~~^{Amisank} did mention that his talks with ~~Amisank~~^{Amisank} group were not going along too well in New York. In keeping with the policy of not discussing political questions with him, an elaboration on this statement was not requested by the undersigned.

9. ~~Amisank~~^{Amisank} departed with the statement that he expected to get in touch with the undersigned again prior to his departure for Europe.

cc: de Silva
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